[Sh. Khelan Ram Jangde]

from Chhatisgarh region, the State Government should be directed to ensure effective functioning of the public distribution system.

(ii) Need to send a Central Study Team to assess the damage caused to crops due to drought in Himachal Pradesh and to take immediate relief measures

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Sir, due to drought condition in Himachal Pradesh, fruit, vegetable and foodgrain crops have been destroyed. The maize crop in the upper reaches of Sirmaur district has completely dried up. Diseases have struck ginger and other crops. The people are not being provided any relief by the Government. The extent of damage to the crops has not yet been assessed.

I urge upon the Central Government to send a study team to Sirmaur district, Solan and Shimla to assess the loss to the farmers and make arrangements to grant adequate compensation to the farmers to make good their loss.

(iii) Need to ensure proper functioning of Public Health Centres in backward and Adivasi areas of the country

SHRI MANKU RAM SODI (Bastar): Sir, public health services are not functioning properly in backward regions particularly in tribal sub-plan areas. Doctors and other necessary medical personnel are not posted in the rural health centres, mini-hospitals and primary health centres. Lack of such facilities have made it difficult for villagers to shed their superstitions. Every year several children die of diarrhoea and malaria. The rate of such deaths has not gone down.

The Central Government is therefore, requested that in order to implement the public health service properly in tribal sub-plan areas all the posts in health centres of each block should be filled up. Officials working in these difficult areas should be given incentive allowance in addition to their pay so that they may take more interest in working in these remote areas.

(iv) Need for early implementation of decision regarding 'one rank one pension' scheme in Defence Services

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Sir, the Government has made many declarations regarding 'One rank one pension' for ex-servicemen but no action has been taken to implement the decision. The previous Government had given an assurance that a decision had been taken regarding 'One rank one pension' for the Ex-servicemen upto the rank of Subedar-Major and officers and this would benefit 85% of the ex-servicemen while a decision would also be taken soon in case of the remaining 15%. As this decision has not been implemented, there is wide-spread resentment among ex-servicemen throughout the country.

Hence, I request the Government to take steps to implement the decision that has been taken and to take an early decision in respect of those ranks also which were not included in this scheme earlier.

(v) Need to take steps to check the environmental pollution being caused by a fertilizer factory at Samastipur, Bihar

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Sir, there is a fertilizer factory in Samastipur district of Bihar. The local people had protested against the setting up of the factory as they were apprehensive of the pollution caused by the factory. Many buildings have been damaged due to the vibrations caused by this factory. Representations have been sent to the Department of Environment, Government of India, but nothing tangible has been achieved so far.